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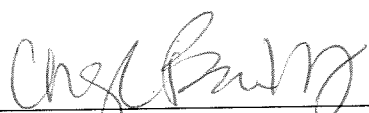
**RESCISSION OF ORDER PROHIBITING THE PRESCRIBING, ORDERING,
DISPENSING AND ADMINISTRATION OF ANY HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE
PRODUCT IN HYDROCODONE-ONLY EXTENDED-RELEASE FORMULATION**

On March 27, 2014, Governor Deval Patrick issued a declaration that a public health emergency existed in the Commonwealth due to the growing opioid addiction epidemic. Pursuant to the Governor's declaration, and with the approval of the Public Health Council, I issued an order conditionally banning the prescribing, ordering, dispensing and administration of any hydrocodone bitartrate product in hydrocodone-only extended-release formulation.

On April 15, 2014, a federal district court judge issued an injunction prohibiting the implementation and enforcement of the foregoing order pending further litigation. Since then, the department and professional licensing boards have shifted their focus to regulating the manner in which doctors and other professionals prescribe, and pharmacists dispense, hydrocodone-only, extended-release hydrocodone bitartrate products that are not in abuse-deterrent formulations. As a result, I hereby permanently rescind my March 27, 2014 order providing that "[n]o registered individual practitioner shall prescribe or order, and no one shall dispense or administer any hydrocodone bitartrate product in hydrocodone-only extended-release formulation until the Commissioner has determined that adequate measures are in place to safeguard against the potential for diversion, overdose and abuse."

All other orders issued pursuant to the declaration of a public health emergency, whether issued on March 27, 2014 or subsequent to that date, remain in effect until independently addressed.

This Order shall take effect immediately.


Cheryl Bartlett, Commissioner
Department of Public Health
5/14/14
Date